

SECRET (When Filled In)



DIRECTORATE OF OPERATIONS

Intelligence Information Cable

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CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ROUTINE

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Political matters - Argentina

CITE

DIST 18 OCTOBER 1976

REPORT CLASS ~~SECRET~~ - WARNING NOTICE - SENSITIVE

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FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024(i)(1) -
Intelligence Sources and Methods

COUNTRY: ARGENTINA

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY MONTONERO LEADERS THAT AT PRESENT
THEY WILL NOT DIRECT ACTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN
DIPLOMATIC TARGETS IN ORDER NOT TO JEOPARDIZE THE
ADVANTAGE WHICH THE MONTONEROS ENJOY FROM THE HUMAN
RIGHTS ISSUE

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CAPTURED MONTONERO RECENTLY STATED THAT ~~THE MONTONEROS~~ *Argentina*
CONSIDER THAT THEY ARE RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL SYMPATHY
FROM ABROAD THROUGH THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND ARE
PLEASED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY AGAINST THE
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.)

2. EXPANDING ON THIS STATEMENT, THIS SAME MONTONERO,
AS WELL AS ANOTHER MONTONERO RECENTLY CAPTURED, BOTH
CLAIM THAT IN ACCORD WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
ASPECTS OF MONTONERO ACTIVITIES IN NORTHEAST ARGENTINA,
INCLUDING SANFA FE PROVINCE, THEY PARTICIPATED IN A MEETING
HELD IN ROSARIO, SANFA FE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1976 WHERE *Argentina*
THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED. ~~MARIO FIRMENICH~~,
COMMANDER OF THE MONTONEROS, PRESIDED OVER THE MEETING, WHICH
WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY ~~ALBERTO MOLINA~~ *Argentina* ~~SBENUZZI~~,
MONTONERO POLITICAL SECRETARY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, AND
~~PABLO VENTURA~~, A MONTONERO OFFICIAL.

3. DURING THE MEETING THE MONTONERO LEADERS SAID
THEY CONSIDERED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, PARTICULARLY
WITHIN THE UNITED STATES, WAS WORKING TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

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CONSEQUENTLY, IN THE INTEREST OF MAINTAINING THIS ADVANTAGE THE MONTONERO LEADERS DECIDED THAT FOR THE PRESENT THEY WOULD NOT DIRECT TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OR THEIR PERSONNEL IN ARGENTINA, AS SUCH ACTIONS WOULD TEND TO WEAKEN THE MONTONEROS' POSITION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT. THE MONTONEROS WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO KILL AND KIDNAP FOREIGN AND ARGENTINE BUSINESS EXECUTIVES, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE SECURITY SERVICES. THE MONTONERO LEADERS EXPLAINED THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IS GENERATING SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR THE MONTONEROS AND OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS IN ARGENTINA AND THE ATTACKS BEING MADE AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ARE ULTIMATELY TO THE BENEFIT OF THE ARGENTINE LEFTIST RADICAL SECTOR.

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4. [REDACTED] COMMENTS: ON 17 OCTOBER 1976 AN INCENDIARY BOMB WAS THROWN AT OR ATTACHED TO A CAR OF THE U.S. EMBASSY DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE (DAO) CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE. THERE WERE SEVERAL BOMBINGS OVER THE 15 OCTOBER 1976 WEEKEND PERIOD OF VARIOUS AUTOMOBILES AND BUSES, AS WELL AS THE BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE "CIRCULO MILITAR"

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(MILITARY CLUB). THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT THE BOMBING OF THE DAO
CAR BY UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS WAS PROBABLY NOT AN INTENTIONAL, PREPLANNED
OPERATION AGAINST THE EMBASSY, BUT WAS A TARGET OF
OPPORTUNITY ACT CARRIED OUT AGAINST AN IMPOSING VEHICLE.
THE MONTONEROS, HOWEVER, HAVE REPORTEDLY TAKEN CREDIT FOR
THE BOMBING OF THE MILITARY CLUB.

[REDACTED]

THE

MONTONEROS INTENDED TO ENGAGE IN TERRORIST ACTS OVER
17-18 OCTOBER TO COMMEMORATE 17 OCTOBER, PERONIST LOYALTY
DAY.

[REDACTED]

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